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NRC DISPATCHES SPECIAL INSPECTION TEAM TO LOOK INTO SAFETY INJECTION PUMP PROBLEM AT KEWAUNEE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has begun a special inspection into the clogging of the heat exchangers for the safety injection pump oil coolers at the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant in Kewaunee, Wisconsin. The clogging would render the pumps inoperable. The plant is managed by Nuclear Management Company.

The plant was shut down on January 16, when routine testing by plant staff uncovered that the heat exchangers used to cool the oil that lubricates the safety injection system pumps were partially clogged by silt and lake weed. The safety injection system provides emergency cooling at the plant. This problem could prevent effective cooling of the reactor in certain accident conditions.

The NRC inspection team includes a senior inspector from another plant in Region III and a senior inspector from the Region III office in Lisle, Illinois. The team will examine the sequence of events that led to the clogging, and evaluate the immediate and long-term corrective actions taken by the plant.

The report of the inspection team will be publicly available when it is issued about 30 days after the close of the special inspection. The report will be posted at the NRC's electronic reading room at: <http://nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html>. To locate the report, once it is issued, enter the docket number for the Kewaunee plant (05000305) in the search phrase box. Assistance in using the web reading room is available by calling the NRC Public Document Room at 800-397-4209.

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